

My name is Joseph J. Cintia and I am a registered voter from Waterbury Connecticut. Passing both S.B. 184 and H.B. 5262 (Continuing Absentee Voting in 2022 due to COVID19) is extremely important to me because I believe that not enough people vote in our elections. I believe voters should be able to vote this year by absentee ballot as COVID19 persists. I also believe that the convenience of voting by mail will encourage more people to vote. In recent decades, about 60% of the voting eligible population voted during presidential election years and about 40% voted during midterm elections. These are shameful numbers. We need to encourage more people to engage in voting, and taking part in our society. Apathy and tolerance are the last virtues of a dying society. If more people do not take part in politics, it will unravel society and lead to the destruction of citizenship. It will also delegitimize elections since the majority may not even have voted. Only by encouraging the engagement of citizens can our government be legitimate and effective.

More than 650,000 Connecticut voters voted by absentee ballot in the 2020 CT General Election—which means they voted early on their own schedules. This led to record breaking 80% voter turnout. With the Covid Virus Crisis and the need to engage people in voting, there is no excuse for not keeping absentee balloting this year. We need to encourage good citizenship and also encourage people to take part in this important franchise of choosing our leaders. Only through encouraging good citizenship and engagement can the free exercise of our rights determine the future of our country.

Thank you for reading my testimony. Joseph j.Cintia